

Early Learning Framework-Systems Building Areas of Focus¹

CONTEXT Consider the political environment that surrounds the system and affects its success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona ranks 47th in the nation on key indicators of health, education and security; and second worse in the nation for 3 and 4 year olds who attend preschool, a predictor of academic and economic success.² • Kindergarten is not required in Arizona • Move On When Reading effective 2013 school year • AZ Common Core implemented in 2011 • Significant waitlist for child care subsidies • Over 10,000 children in foster care • School Readiness Indicators adopted in 2011 • First Things First initiative is voter-supported • AZ ranks 43rd in the nation for high school graduation rate
COMPONENTS Establish high-performing and quality programs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality First • Child Care Scholarships • Expansion: Increase child care slots • Family, Friend and Neighbor Care • Inclusion of Children with Special Needs • Summer Transition to Kindergarten • Community-based Professional Development • Consultation: Language and Communication • Director Mentoring • Professional REWARD\$ • Learning Labs • Recruitment into the Field • T.E.A.C.H. and other Scholarships for continuing education
CONNECTIONS Creating strong and effective linkages across the system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona Head Start Association • Department of Education Early Childhood Division • Professional Development Systems Building Workgroup • Arizona Build Initiative • Quality First Joint Service Collaboration • Tribal agreements • Mixed Service Delivery Model
INFRASTRUCTURE Developing the supports the system needs to function effectively and with quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Development and Health Board and Committees (governance structure) • State Advisory Council • Regional Councils • Tribal Technical Assistance Group • Quality First Academy • Annual Early Childhood Summit • State Early Learning and Program Standards • Workforce Knowledge and Competencies • Bureau of Child Care Licensing Regulations • Children's Action Alliance • Arizona Child Care Association • Alliance for Family Friend and Neighbor Child Care • Professional Development Registry and Website • DES Family Child Care Home Certification • Quality Improvement and Rating System • First Things First Statewide Quality Assurance System • Quality First database and website
SCALE Ensuring the system is comprehensive and works for all children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 Regional Partnership Councils across the state including participation from 20 federally recognized tribes • Nearly 900 programs (27%) of regulated ECE providers participate in QIRS • More than 14,000 children receive scholarships to access early care and education programs • Over 46,000 children are impacted by Quality First • Almost 700 professionals receive support to expand their education and skill in working with young children³

¹ Coffman, J. (2007). A framework for evaluating systems initiatives. Prepared for the Build Initiative.

² 2013 Kids Count Data Book. Annie E. Casey Foundation.

³ 2013 First Things First Annual Report.

Early Learning Advisory Committee Goals:

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